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## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

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MAY 27, 1890.

Since the last annual meeting, May 28, 1889, the Academy has lost by death nine members; — viz. two Resident Fellows, William Parsons Atkinson and Charles Deane; six Associate Fellows, John Huntington Crane Coffin, Alexander Johnston, Leo Lesquereux, Elias Loomis, and Maria Mitchell; and one Foreign Honorary Member, James Prescott Joule.

### RESIDENT FELLOWS.

#### WILLIAM PARSONS ATKINSON.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM PARSONS ATKINSON died on the 10th of March, 1890, after a service of fifty years as a teacher. He was the son of Amos and Anna Greenleaf Atkinson, and was born in Boston, August 20, 1820. He entered Harvard College in the class of 1838, graduating the seventh in his class.

On the 21st of June, 1843, he married Sarah Cabot Parkman, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Francis Parkman, pastor of the New North Church of Boston, who survives him. Of his four children only two are living.

He began to teach school immediately on leaving college, devoting himself mainly to preparing boys for college. On the founding of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in 1866, he became Professor of English Literature and History. He held this position from that time for twenty-four years, until within a year before his death, when he resigned.

During this long period of service he applied himself with entire devotion to the interests of the school, often to the injury even of his own health, doing for years such voluntary work as teaching political economy and the elements of constitutional law outside his own

special department, when the condition of the finances of the school made it impossible to provide special teachers in these subjects.

One of his early pupils, Mr. Moorfield Storey, has written these words, which leave little to be added :—

“ By the death of William P. Atkinson this community has lost a man of a kind unfortunately too rare. His singular simplicity, his unswerving devotion to high ideals, his never failing courage and hopefulness, his strong sense of duty, his absolute unselfishness, were recognized by all who made his acquaintance. He was too modest even to suspect how many men whom he knew perhaps but slightly drew strength and inspiration from his example. He was simply incapable of a base or sordid thought, and no material temptation weighed for an instant with him against what he felt to be right. During the early days of antislavery agitation, he gave abundant proof of how little he valued worldly success or comfort if they were to be had only by a sacrifice of principle. As a teacher, especially during the years when he was dealing with young men, to many of whom immediate pecuniary success was important, he sought to inspire his pupils with an interest in what makes life really rich, and many of his old scholars will cherish through life a grateful recollection of their hours with him, and will appreciate more and more how much of what they most value they owe to his teaching. He showed by his whole life how devoutly he believed in ‘ plain living and high thinking,’ and in this material age, when the community seems given over to luxury and the vow of poverty is so rarely taken, it is very hard to fill his place.”

## CHARLES DEANE.

CHARLES DEANE was born at Biddeford, in the then District of Maine, on the 10th of November, 1813. His father was a physician in extensive practice, a man of liberal culture, and not without interest in the subjects of historical and antiquarian research in which his son performed pre-eminent service. Among his father’s nearest neighbors was Judge George Thacher, who had been a Delegate to the Continental Congress, had at an early period represented Massachusetts in the National Congress, and was among the men who both helped in the making of history and had no little power of narrative and description. There were also in his native town and in the adjoining town of Saco several families that had been distinguished in earlier time and were rich in treasured reminiscences. Mr. Deane’s